



Bill Lindsay's Community Report

from the Suffolk County Legislature

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Lindsay Elected Presiding Officer For a Sixth Consecutive Term

Bipartisan Coalition Re-elects Lindsay to Lead County Legislature

Suffolk County Legislator William J. Lindsay was re-elected as Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer by a bipartisan coalition of Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and Working Family Party members at the 2011 organizational meeting on Monday, January 3. Legislator Lindsay has now become the longest-serving Democratic Party Presiding Officer in the County Legislature's history and is one year short of Donald Blydenburgh's seven years as Presiding Officer.

"It is my pleasure ... no it is my honor to nominate the Honorable William J. Lindsay to be our Presiding Officer," said Legislator Wayne R. Horsley (D-Lindenhurst). "Bill Lindsay, the Lion of our Legislature. Bill Lindsay, the Lion that roars when we are attacked, who protects our house and its independence. The Lion that has never forgotten that government can create fairness, who believes in a level playing field for all our constituents." Horsley continued

about Lindsay. "Governor Cuomo said in his inaugural speech that 'without trust in government there is nothing.' Legislator Lindsay is the embodiment of that trust!

"I pledge to you that I will do my very best to run this legislative body fairly and honestly for the betterment of the citizens of Suffolk County."

-Legislator Lindsay

Bill who governs with fairness and understands that members can act independently and not be disloyal. Who governs by persuasion and not a hammer.

Legislator Kate M. Browning (WF-Mastic) seconded the nomination on behalf of Legislator Lindsay. "Suffolk County residents want a representative in county gov-

ernment who understands their needs. and, you [Bill Lindsay] treat everyone with the utmost respect. You have been a committed leader for many years. You know how to compromise for the good of the County when there are differences of opinion. As the Presiding Officer, you respect all of us no matter what the party affiliation is. You have fought hard to protect the integrity of this legislature, and keep Suffolk County government open and accountable."

"Thank you for bestowing on me this honor of being the Presiding Officer of what I believe to be the premiere legislative body in the United States," said Presiding Officer Lindsay after his re-election. I think we can be successful as a legislative body if we continue to ask ourselves whether we are doing the right thing for the citizens we represent. I pledge to you that I will do my very best to run this legislative body fairly and honestly for the betterment of the citizens of Suffolk County."

Lindsay Insures Pedestrian Safety With Sidewalks Project

The next part of the ongoing repair and expansion of sidewalks along Montauk Highway in the Eighth Legislative District will continue this spring with work to repair and construct three miles of sidewalks stretching from Greene Avenue near the West Sayville Golf Course to the Long Island Railroad overpass in Oakdale. This is part four of a sidewalk replacement project that began in 2004.

The work will include repair and replacement as needed of drainage facilities and signage. Next year, that portion of Montauk Highway will be resurfaced.

"These sidewalks are an

absolute necessity," said Legislator Lindsay. "They are necessary to insure the safety of pedestrians walking along these busy roadways and to insure the increased vitality of our busy downtown areas."

This sidewalk expansion and repair work began in 2004 with the replacement of one-quarter mile of the existing curb and sidewalk on Montauk Highway from Railroad Avenue to Greene Avenue. That project also included milling of the existing asphalt pavement and subsequent resurfacing, repair and adjustment of the existing drainage facilities as well as installation of new pavement markings and signage.

It continued with Phase 2, replacement of sidewalks along Montauk Highway from Lincoln Avenue to Railroad Avenue and on Middle Road (County Road 65) from Collins Avenue to Montauk Highway, a stretch of one-quarter mile. That project began in April of 2005 and was concluded that August. That project also included road resurfacing, installation of new and repair of the existing drainage structures, and new pavement markings and signage.

Phase 3 was concluded in 2007. That project involved the replacement of almost a mile of sidewalk on Montauk Highway from Greene Avenue to Cherry

Avenue and on Middle Road from Collins Avenue to the vicinity of Brown's River and a third of a mile of sidewalks along Middle Road. The project also included road resurfacing, installation of new drainage structures, repair of existing drainage structures and installation of pavement markings and signage.

"Without good sidewalks, our businesses are cut off from the consumers they need to survive and our residents are cut off from the businesses they want to patronize," said Lindsay. "We can't let that happen and that is why I have pushed through these projects."



Lindsay Facilitates Student Participation in Democracy

Legislator William J. Lindsay recently visited students at Waverly Avenue Elementary School on Friday, January 14 and organized the students in the class to participate in a legislative simulation. Each student was assigned a significant role in the demonstration, either as a legislator or as an active participant in the public portion. Students experienced how an idea becomes a law in Suffolk County.

“This idea of a government simulation is a great way to reinforce what students have learned in school and it allows each child the opportunity to play a role in democracy,” said Legislator Lindsay. “I am always eager to create meaningful learning experiences for all types of learners, in the hopes that one day they will grow into strong adult citizens, capable of making good decisions.”

No Tax Increase In Operating Budget Passed by the County Legislature

The Suffolk County Legislature passed its Operating Budget Plan for 2011 after overriding the County Executive’s veto of a number of critical items. The plan, which is made up of amendments to the County Executive’s proposed operating budget:

- Freezes County property taxes on all lines.
- Restores \$1.32 million in much needed funding to health centers in Brookhaven, Riverhead, Huntington and Islip.
- Increases funding for flu vaccines.
- Maintains ‘lock box’ nature of dedicated funds for drinking water protection and cultural affairs by blocking County Executive’s attempt to raid these funds to pay for recurring salaries.
- Cut \$363,148 in unnecessary positions including County Executive’s personal photographer, Police Department Media Relations Director, an Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Personnel Officer in the Labor Department.

- Includes funding for ‘Shot Spotter’ technology to assist the Police in fighting gun crimes and moves 30 police to the street during high-crime summer months.
- Provides funding for new Child Protective Services team.
- Restored \$113,000 in funding for mental health agencies.
- Cuts unnecessary equipment, vehicles, supplies and programmatic expenses by \$1.3 million.
- Restores park fees to 2009 levels to raise \$800,000.

“I appreciate the many hours the Legislative Operating Budget Working Group spent to craft a no tax increase budget that restores needed funding to critical health services, public safety technologies and operations as well as services to protect children and families,” said Presiding Officer Lindsay.

LINDSAY THANKS LIFE-SAVERS

Suffolk County Legislator William J. Lindsay gave Proclamations to Emergency Medical Technician students and Registered Nursing students along with their professor Denise D’Ambrosia for responding quickly to an unconscious female student at Suffolk County Community College’s Ammerman Campus.

Legislator Lindsay also gave Proclamations to several Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics

from Community Ambulance Company who responded to a 71-year-old male in cardiac arrest.

In both cases, CPR was administered and an Automated External Defibrillator was utilized, ultimately saving the victims’ lives.

“I want to thank each of these life savers for going beyond the call of duty to protect the people and property of Suffolk County,” said Legislator Lindsay.

Lindsay Honors Great South Bay Ice Rescuers

At a general meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature on Tuesday, February 1, Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay honored Suffolk County Police Officer Matthew DeMatteo and members of the Sayville Fire Department for saving 11-year-old Sarah Thalhammer and her neighbor’s dog, Ace Ventura, on Monday, January 17.

Sarah Thalhammer was walking her neighbor’s dog when Sarah was led onto the ice on the Great South Bay. She fell through the ice approximately 50 yards offshore and was in the water up to her neck. Officer DeMatteo was the first emergency responder, and he crawled onto the treacherous ice surface and grabbed Sarah out of the water.

The ice gave away again, and the two of them fell in – but this time Officer DeMatteo was

able to stand up with Sarah, exit the water, and carry her to safety. Sayville Community Ambulance Company First Assistant Chief Christopher Gonzales threw Officer DeMatteo a rope and helped them finally reach the shoreline.

Sayville Fire Department Firefighter Chuck Hartman entered the ice with his flotation ring once the crew secured the necessary equipment to rescue the neighbor’s dog. Members of the Sayville Fire Department Rescue squad include Lieutenant Daniel Karl, Chief Donald Hodgkinson, Captain Robert Smith, and Firefighters Peter Williams and Zach Haller.

“I thank each of the emergency responders for their quick thinking and heroic action,” said Presiding Officer Lindsay. “Saving a life is an extraordinary accomplishment, and I am proud to honor these brave men for bringing Sarah home safely.”



Legislator Lindsay gives Proclamations to Suffolk County Community College Registered Nursing student Rachel Ferlin (left) and Emergency Medical Technician student Casey Quinn (second from right). Lindsay was joined by Professor Denise D’Ambrosia (right) of the college. Pictured (center) is Denise Kowaleski. EMT student Justin Sinisi also received a Proclamation.



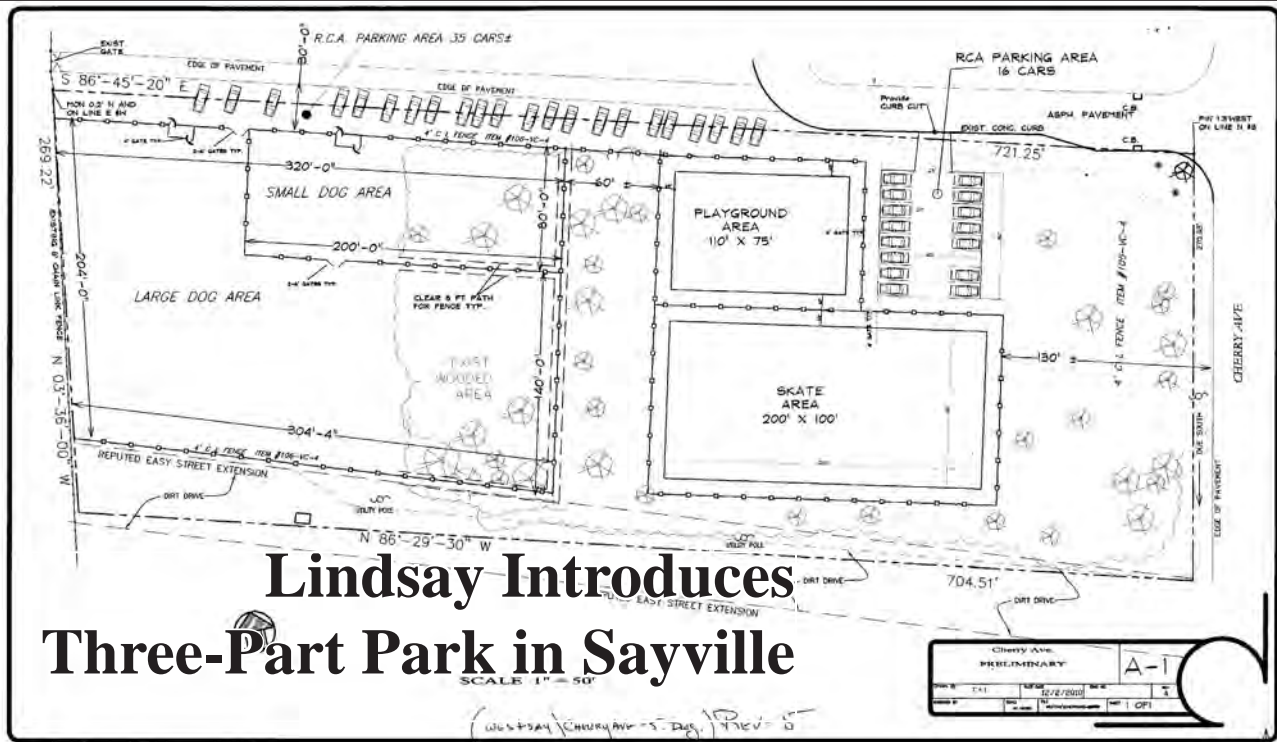
Legislator Lindsay gives Proclamations to (left to right): Paramedic Rostislav Livinsky, Emergency Medical Technician Kyle LoGiudice, Paramedic Chris Gonzales, EMT and Chief of Department Jamie Atkinson, and EMT Timothy Taylor of the Community Ambulance Company for their efforts to save a man’s life.



Legislator Lindsay honors Suffolk County Police Officer Matthew DeMatteo (center) for saving Sarah Thalhammer (left) from the ice on the Great South Bay.



Legislator Lindsay thanks Suffolk Police Officer Matthew DeMatteo and the Sayville Fire Department Ice Rescue Squad for saving the life of Sarah Thalhammer and her neighbor’s dog. Also pictured is Sarah’s mother, Michaela Thalhammer (center), and Sarah’s seventeen-year old brother, Philip Thalhammer (far right).



Lindsay Introduces Three-Part Park in Sayville

Plans are almost finished for a new Suffolk County park on the west side of Cherry Avenue in Sayville, immediately south of the existing Baymen Soccer Club athletic fields, a Town of Islip facility, and bordering an industrial area, a project championed by Legislator Bill Lindsay.

This will be a state-of-the-art parks facility with a dog run, a skate park and a fully handicapped accessible playground with a special section designed specifically for autistic children. There has long been a need for these facilities in Sayville and this is the perfect location for the park and the wide array of activities it will provide facilities to accommodate.

Many residents have been pushing for a dog run for years and the county is finally ready to move forward with establishing the run. The County Parks Department has just finished clearing a portion of the property for this dog run, which is slated to open early this spring.

Legislator Lindsay secured funding in the county's capital budget to construct a skate park on a portion of the nearly 4.5-acre parcel, another facility that many parents and youngsters have been seeking for years. The skate park will give enthusiastic skateboarders a safe and challenging venue to work on their routines for the X Games. Having a skate park facility may also reduce damage from skateboarding in parks not designed for skateboard use.

The skate park design is complete and there is funding in the 2011 Capital Budget so the Department of Public Works could go out to bid soon.

The Parks Department is in discussions with the De-

partment of Handicapped Services to determine if there is funding available for playground equipment for the parcel. A variety of the usual playground apparatus, as well as special playground equipment designed for handicapped and autistic children, is envisioned as a central part of the park. If the Parks and Handicapped Services Departments cannot find funding for the gear, Lindsay intends to put money in the capital budget to purchase the equipment. This park will serve all of our children with the facilities required to meet all of their special needs.

"I am excited that this facility will have a dog run, skate park and a fully handicapped accessible playground with a special section for autistic children."

-Legislator Bill Lindsay

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all public accommodations, including playgrounds, be accessible to individuals with disabilities. Safety is just as important as accessibility and Lindsay said the county will make sure this playground is both safe and accessible for the handicapped.

For autistic children, a sensory wall will likely be included in the playground, as sensory stimulation is very important for autistic children. As with the skate

park, construction of the playground could go out to bid this year.

"The property's purchase was authorized back in 2007 for hamlet park use and I am pleased to see this plan finally reaching fruition," said Lindsay. "County Executive Steve Levy, during his time as a County Legislator, was the sponsor of the original planning steps resolution that began the purchase process. When I was elected in 2001, I continued the process, a process that unfortunately has taken a decade to complete. I look forward to the continued cooperation of the County Executive in making this park a reality for Sayville."